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## Current Events

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[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Juliann A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Oregon. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

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### Florida

Under the direction of the Classical Section of the Florida Educational Association, a plan is being worked out by which the college men of the state are brought into closer touch with the high schools closest to them, with a view to giving the high-school teachers of Latin their direct oversight and help.

*The State College for Women.*—The State College for Women has provided funds for a set of about 350 lantern slides, to be used in the various high schools of the state. The illustrations bear directly on the reading of the high schools and on the life and custom of the Greeks and Romans, especially the latter. These go to the high schools in sets of 75 to 100 at a time, to be followed shortly after by the next set, until all have been used. They are to pass on to the next convenient high school, and on around until they get back home.

The classical students have undertaken a rather ambitious effort for the middle of May, namely, a Roman banquet after real Roman ideas. They are now hard at work preparing for it. There will be nearly 200 participants, including a few Latin teachers from near-by towns.

The Latin situation in Florida is in many ways in a very satisfactory condition. No one can teach Latin in a high school without a special Latin certificate from the state superintendent. This means a stiff Latin examination. The superintendent in this state is a strong friend of the classics and a staunch believer in the kind of training for which they stand and have always stood.

### Illinois

*University of Illinois.*—The University of Illinois has made a considerable addition to its Museum of Classical Antiquities through recent purchase of some of the most valuable and interesting pieces in the collection assembled by the late Professor George M. Olcott, of Columbia University.

*Springfield.*—The Latin club of the Springfield High School has for several years maintained a prominent place in the activities of that institution. During the year the club holds four meetings at which somewhat elaborate programs

are presented by different divisions. At the last meeting Miss Bouldin's Virgil class entertained with a Pyramus and Thisbe program, which included (1) The legend as Ovid gives it; (2) use made of the legend in English literature by Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Saxe; (3) synopsis of scenes from *Midsummer-Night's Dream* involving the story; (4) dramatic presentation of Act V, scene i, *Midsummer-Night's Dream*.

Miss Paxson's *Roman School*, which the club used several years ago, will be produced by Miss Sheehan's classes in March.

*Chicago*.—The Chicago Classical Club held its monthly dinner and club meeting in Fraternity Hall at the Great Northern Hotel. The guest and speaker of the day was Miss Frances Sabin, of the University of Wisconsin, who read a paper whose title was expressed on the Latin program as "*Arma fabrosque cano*." This proved to be a presentation of ways and means of popularizing Latin among parents, teachers, principals, boards, etc.

### Indiana

*Terre Haute*.—On January 14 the Latin students of Garfield High School, Terre Haute, Indiana, gave a Latin play under the direction of their teachers, Miss Louise Lammers and Miss Winifred Acock. The play was entitled *Cicero Candidatus* and had been written by Professor J. J. Schlicher. It consists of scenes illustrating the life of the people at Cicero's birthplace, Arpinum, when he comes there to make a speech in behalf of his candidacy for the consulship. The speech is made in the last scene amid great enthusiasm. The performance of the play was very lively, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Nearly all the boys and girls acted their parts in a very natural way. The most beautiful scene, perhaps, was the one in which the women gathered about the town fountain with pitchers and jars, to get water and to gossip; but the hit of the evening was the song and dance of four young people from Rome around the old woman keeping the inn at Arpinum.

### Missouri

*Kirksville*.—That agriculture and Latin are not antagonistic was seen during the Rural Life Conference which was held in December, at the State Normal School at Kirksville, Missouri.

One of the programs of that conference consisted of the Vestal Virgin Drill by students of the Latin department and an address by W. K. Tate, professor of rural education, Peabody College. The Latin department was asked to furnish something that would be of interest to the one thousand rural and village teachers who would attend the conference, and the Vestal Virgin Drill was selected, though it makes no claim to being "practical" and has no excuse, other than beauty, for its existence.

In January, students of Latin under the direction of Mr. Ralph Noyer, of the English department, and Miss T. Jennie Green, of the Latin department, gave *Phormio* in English. Mr. Morgan's translation was used as a basis

in beginning the work, but the play as finally given savored of campus English, and was original in many parts, but the actors caught the spirit of Terence and conveyed it to their hearers. With the help of workers in the dramatic club, we were able to give the faces a "make up" strikingly like the masks pictured in the Harvard edition, and this feature was very satisfactory to the audience, though some of the actors objected to being made so grotesque. With these masklike faces, the tunics, togas, and sandals, and the splendid acting, the play held the interest of the audience and was pronounced a success. Mr. Noyer was doubly helpful in staging the play, from his position as teacher of public speaking and from his classical training. The proceeds were given to a fund for the purchase of some suitable memorial to the two members of the faculty who died in November, Professor B. P. Gentry, for thirty-three years head of the Latin department, and Miss Ophelia Parrish, the librarian.

### Ohio

*The Columbus Latin Club.*—The Columbus, Ohio, Latin Club had a banquet at the Chittenden Hotel, Saturday evening, February 5. There were sixty-four members present. The leading speaker was Miss Frances E. Sabin, of the University of Wisconsin. Her subject, "A Ministry of Latin Munitions," had as its theme the cause of Latin worked out on a business basis. This fine address was followed by the discussion opened by another prominent speaker, Miss Myra Hanson, of Scott High School, Toledo, Ohio. Others who spoke, besides the Latin teachers, Miss Edith L. Daniels, of the Columbus School for Girls, and Miss Harriet R. Kirby, of the Columbus North High School, were Dr. J. A. Shawan, superintendent of schools; Rabbi Joseph S. Kornfeld, a member of the Board of Education; Professor Frank B. Pearson, of the Ohio State University; and Colonel E. S. Wilson, of the *Ohio State Journal*. Colonel Wilson's splendid editorial in the next day's paper ended thus: "But the night was great, not because it was devoted to Latin simply, but to Latin as a friend of English."

The present officers of the club are: Miss Augusta Connolley, of West High School, President; Miss Alice D. Hare, of East High School, Vice-President; Miss Stella M. Reel, of Clinton High School, Secretary-Treasurer.

*The Ohio State University.*—The Alumnae Club of the Ohio State University presented the *Antigone* of Sophocles in the University chapel on the evening of January 29. The classic tragedy was given for the benefit of the Clara Gregory Orton student loan fund for needy girls of the university. The effort was made to produce the play so that the effect on a present-day audience would be comparable to that produced on the ancient Greeks. *Antigone* was made a charming and beautiful character with her pathetic isolation developed rather more than her religious intensity. The part of Ismene was carefully played and skilfully kept subordinate to the main character. The chorus was arranged in two divisions. The words were sung to the Mendelssohn score by a group of men seated in the orchestra pit, while the interpretation was done

after the Greek method by a group of girls on the stage. The grouping of the tableaux by the chorus was very effective, and the dancing, from the rhythmic triumphal march of the first entrance until the end of the play, showed the hard work and training which had been put into the presentation.

*Cincinnati.*—The Twelfth Annual Conference of the Secondary-School Principals and Teachers of the Schools Affiliated with the University of Cincinnati met in McMicken Hall, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, February 19. At the forenoon session, a masterly address was delivered by Rev. W. H. P. Faunce, D.D., president of Brown University, on "The Larger Meaning of Vocation." At the afternoon session the Conference split up into various sections. At the Classical Section a most interesting and spirited meeting was held. The following papers were read: "The Direct Method—Pro and Con," by Miss Ida Feiel, South High School, Columbus; "The Correlation of High-School Latin with Freshman College Latin," by Professor J. E. Ness, Wittenberg College, Springfield; "The Use of Lantern Slides in Teaching Caesar," by Mrs. Clara Milligan, North High School, Columbus.

There was recently presented at the Hughes High School by Mrs. George D. Colter a selection from the *Odyssey* of Homer as arranged by Miss Edith Weld Peck with a series of dramatic episodes called *Ulysses and Penelope*. The occasion is appreciatively described by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, whose account concludes as follows:

The object of this revival of the majestic poem of Homer, which has for its distinctive features the home, friendship, and woman's influence, and which Miss Peck adapted so admirably, was to further an interest in the retention of Greek in the public schools, a department threatened with extinction by the march of commercialism.

The *Odyssey* was preceded by a brief speech of welcome by the principal of the high school, Mr. E. D. Lyon. Mr. F. A. King, head of Hughes's department of Greek, and to whom is due last night's demonstration of interest in the classics, followed with an appeal for the continuance of Greek and a glimpse of what Athens means to the students. Dr. J. E. Harry, the head of the department of Greek at the University of Cincinnati, concluded these preliminaries with a stereopticon address, brief and illuminative, which brought the vivid story of the Trojan wars to the point where the episodes of the *Odyssey* took them up. His lecture was very fully illustrated with lantern slides, taken from the examples of ancient Greek vases. A Greek dance done by pupils of the high school added to the interest of an audience that numbered over 1,000 enthusiastic believers in the efficacy of Greek as a means to an end.

*Toledo.*—The Senior class Latin club of the Scott High School, Toledo, Ohio, from all reports, is in a flourishing condition. Its activities do much to create a wholesome interest in the study of Latin. The school has a type-written Latin leaflet entitled *Vox Classis*. It is published by boys of the Latin classes at regular intervals. It is full of clever items from the student's point of view. Each number thus far has been an improvement upon the preceding issue.

On the eve of the Saturnalia the Sophomore Latin classes of Scott High School were hosts at a Roman dinner. In the beautiful and spacious refectory, in front of a background of Pompeian red, decorated with white statuesque figures, two tables at which Caesar and his special friends were to recline were arranged according to the Roman manner. About the room were grouped the other tables. At these the "Romans," clad in togas, sat and awaited the entrance of Caesar and his honored guests. The music of flutes marked the entrance of these eighteen who were to recline at the tables. Each was attended by his personal slave who carried his master's napkin and was ready to remove the sandals.

Before seating themselves, the noble Romans sang "*Gaudeamus igitur de victoria Caesaris.*" This song was the signal for the slaves—Freshmen—to enter with the "*gustus,*" including the proverbial egg. Between the courses Greek entertainers rendered an appropriate program. A bugle call summoned the slaves with the "*cena.*" The arrival of the "peacock" borne on high in a flaming tray aroused much excitement. During this course a eulogy of the host was given in Latin, and the occasion was taken by Caesar's favorite slave to place the laurel wreath upon the head of his master. The priest performed the customary libation and all rejoiced in mighty Caesar's glory. After the "*mensae secundae,*" the jesters—African slaves—delighted all with their travesties of heroes, Achilles and Hector, Hercules strangling the hydra, etc. As a finale, all the diners rose and sang "*Scottensium,*" adapted from "*Michiganensium,*" and the slaves started the "*Te cano patria,*" in which all joined.

The dinner was carried out by the Sophomore Latin classes, under the direction of Miss May Ryan and Miss Henrietta Staadecker. The object was to familiarize the pupils with Roman customs, costumes, and manners, by ocular demonstration, and to awaken an interest in things classical. If the enthusiasm of the three hundred pupils, teachers, and friends who dined as Romans is any criterion, the end sought was attained.

### Tennessee

The tenth annual meeting of the Tennessee Philological Association was held at the George Peabody College for Teachers and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, on February 25 and 26. Among the papers read the following were of especial interest to classical readers: "Roman Literary Characterization," by R. B. Steele, Vanderbilt University; Notes on the Turfan Manuscript of the Crucifixion, by H. C. Tolman, Vanderbilt University; "Glimpses of Family Life in the Greek New Comedy," by D. R. Lee, University of Chattanooga; President's address: "Reflections on Rereading Virgil," by Emily H. Dutton, Tennessee College; "Disease as a Deity in the Development of the Roman Religion," by Eugene Tavenner, Middle Tennessee Normal School.

### Virginia

*Hollins College.*—Drama is excellently represented every session in this old institution, but, heretofore, always in the English language. But this session a most pleasing impression was made upon the public by the addition of a play in the Latin language, Miss Paxson's *Roman School*. The original, clever work of Miss Paxson was supplemented by songs of Roman martial glory, and novel physical exercises given by the Latin teacher, which were enthusiastically received by the audience. The chief parts, as magister, Cicero, Caesar, taken by advanced students of Latin, as well as the smallest parts by younger students, were admirably sustained throughout the play. Probably Miller's *Dido* or *The Fall of Troy* will soon be undertaken as higher exhibitions of the Roman customs.

### Wisconsin

*The University of Wisconsin.*—Under the direction of the department of education of the University of Wisconsin a class is being conducted in the Wisconsin High School for the purpose of working out a one-year course in Latin for the benefit of pupils who expect to take no more Latin. It is not intended in any way to supplant the accepted type of first-year Latin work and is not considered a "beginners'" course. The material for the first half-year has been a selection from the stock of English words which have been contributed by Latin without material change through Romance influence. The selection has aimed to exemplify fully all the important methods of Latin word-formation that have numerous survivals in English, together with enough study of forms to enable the pupil to identify the base and the declension or conjugation of the inflected parts of speech. For the second semester the most common Latin phrases encountered by the English reader constitute the material. The forms and syntax necessary to their interpretation are to be mastered. Mythological, historical, and modern scientific terms are included. It is hoped that it will be possible to include the most familiar Greek roots and the commonest types of change which Latin words have undergone in passing through French into English. The course is conducted by a fellow in the department of education, who is preserving the material produced by the students and will report the educational and psychological aspects thereof as a part of his doctoral dissertation, which is to be submitted in June, 1916. The course already offers sufficient encouragement to make probable its publication in textbook form.

Miss Letta Wilson is chairman of the Wisconsin Publicity Committee for this year. The object of this committee is to bring the claims of Latin as a subject of practical value to notice of students, parents, teachers, and educators generally.